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~~The~~ Arizona Campaign ✓

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The Arizona campaign for suffrage is probably the most unique in history. The fight for Equal Suffrage began here fifteen years ago and eight years ago success seemed within our grasp when we had a suffrage bill pass both houses of the legislature by a two thirds vote. But the bill was vetoed by a Governor who was controlled by machine politicians. Since that time it has been apparent that we could never succeed with a suffrage measure until it came to a vote of the people.

When the Enabling Act was passed two years ago last June, there arose a murmur that soon swelled into one insistent demand that the new constitution be builded strictly along progressive lines. Hon. Henry F. Ashurst was present senator from Arizona, sounded the key note of the coming campaign when in his fourth of July speech he advocated the initiative and Referendum and other progressive measures. Senator Ashurst is a democrat but the democratic party was at that time in the hands of the reactionaries and they scared Mr. Ashurst must severely for what they termed his untimely speech. A week or two later a convention of the working men was called and met in Phoenix I attended that convention, and heard it declared most emphatically that neither the democratic nor republican parties fulfilled the demands of the working class, hence a new party "The Labor Party" was formed, and their platform contained all of the progressive measures advocated by Senator Ashurst and a good many more, an Equal Suffrage plank coming among others. It soon became apparent that unless something was done to meet the

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demands of the people, the "Labor Party" would become the dominant party in Arizona and the democratic party quickly trimmed its sails to catch the breeze of popular sentiment. Here is where the women let an opportunity go by. If an organized effort had been made at that time to have Equal Suffrage become a part of the progressive demands we could have gotten equal suffrage into the Constitution very easily. But the women were not alive to the fact hence, only a partial effort was made, but even the small effort brought forth good results for when the Constitutional Convention met the following fall, a considerable number of its members pledged to suffrage. We labored long and well with that Convention, but it was useless, for we soon found that although the majority was labelled "Progressive" that only a few were the genuine article, and that only a thin veneer, just enough to deceive the people, covered the greater number, and so we failed on the ground that it would be dangerous and radical to put Equal Suffrage into the Constitution and would insure its veto by President Taft and this with a constitution thus already had the initiative and referendum and the Recall of Judges written vetoed it in defiance of President Taft's expressed wish when he toured the state a few months before. So we went back home and told our tale of woe, but the people would not believe us when we ^{told} them that a great many of those so-called progressive men were a very bad imitation and as soon as the Constitution had been formally adopted and statehood declared they sent every one of these men who wanted to come back as members of the first state legislature, except the eleven republicans who had honestly declared themselves reactionaries

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and in favor of a "Safe and sane, constitution". They were every one retired in disgrace. As soon as the first state election was held, we commenced bombarding the governor with petitions and letters asking him to recommend suffrage in his message to the legislature. This he did and the second bill introduced when that legislature met was one asking that our amendment to the constitution be submitted to the voters giving all citizens of certain qualifications the right to vote and providing that the word citizen should include persons of the male and female sex. This bill or a similar one was passed by a good majority in the lower house but failed by one vote in the Senate which was presided over, and dominated by our arch enemy of the Constitutional Convention. The final vote came last April and we then had but little more than two months in which to obtain names enough for our initiative petition. Here the Socialists came to our aid and without them we should have failed, but as it was we succeeded in obtaining 1/4 more names than needed, and filed our petition the 5th of July last. We had at that time a state central committee with members from every county. We began through them to raise the necessary campaign funds. The National through Miss Shaw came forward with a pledge of enough money to commence the work and financed almost half the entire fund.

Our campaign was not an expensive one as we had only one paid speaker Mrs. Laura Gregg Cannon. Miss Shaw gave us seven speeches in the entire state and she made hundreds of votes for us, and her praises were sounded everywhere. Dozens of influential people in every town where she spoke have

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told us that they have never thought of suffrage as anything but a joke until they heard Miss Shaw. As I review the work of the campaign I am very well satisfied with it and can say that few mistakes were made, but there is one thing we could not have done without and that was Miss Shaw's seven lectures here.

Mrs. Cannon spoke almost entirely to the labor men, and the result was most gratifying indeed. The election returns show that fully 95% of the solid labor vote was given for the suffrage amendment. Miss Alice Park of Palo Alto, Cal. was here and lent us her faithfully assistance. Her help was invaluable and the successful distribution of literature was almost entirely due to her efforts.

The shrewdest thing that was done during the whole campaign was the obtaining of a suffrage plank in both democratic and republican state platforms. Politics pure and simple were pledged here, and the progressive party was the principal factor in the game. The state party adopted the National platform with its suffrage plank in full. When the party conferences were held for the purpose of formulating the party platform for the state campaign, we women went before the democratic and republican conference and beat the reactionaries who had again gained controlled of the machinery. We had a battle royal but we won by the simple play of wit which taught me that man's wit is no match for woman's in point of keenness. By securing the suffrage planks, we swept the ground from under the feet of our apponents and not one politician dared raise his voice against us. Hon. H. A. Davis a member of the legislature as senator from Mancipa County, gave us

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several weeks of his valuable time without salary and spoke to large crouds of people and made many votes for us. We hope to send him to the U. S. Senate in two years, and if we do, equal suffrage will have a valiant champion.

The entire press of the state was favorable and only one paper published an unfavorable editorial. The majority published all of our suffrage matter and gave us numerous favorable editorials.

We did nothing spectacular, but devoted our whole time to the distribution of literature and to personal appeal. We have won honestly and solely on the merits of the question. The complete returns are not in, but we have carried the state easily by a majority of 2 to 1 and at a total cost of less than \$2,000. (two thousand dollars).

We owe our victory to the generous spirit of Arizona's noble and progressive manhood.

Frances Willard Munds.

President

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